

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following claims listing replaces any previous listing:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a user-interactive, multi-device, audio-video system that contains user speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities for avoiding the recognizing of speech output from the system as user speech,

wherein in the presence of a plurality of devices, each including a plural and functionally separate ones of said speech recognizing facility, facilities and echo canceling facility facilities, the method includes a step of driving each the echo canceling facility facilities to combine each facility's functional ability their forces by one or more thereof for canceling one or more mutually unique cancelable speech entities, and combining such cancelled entities for overall non-recognition by the system.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the step of combining includes such combining operates by arranging each various echo canceling facility facilities in series.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said series arrangement feeding the feeds each speech recognizing facility in a centralized manner.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said series feeds each arrangement feeding various speech recognizing facility facilities in a distributed manner.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the step of such combining centralizes operates by centralizing said echo canceling facilities, and feeds each facility comprising the and feeding various speech recognizing facilities in a distributed manner.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the step of such combining centralizes~~operates by centralizing~~ each facility comprising said echo canceling facilities, and each facility comprising said speech recognizing facilities in a joint control facility.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the step of such combining arranges that each~~operates by arranging selected~~ echo canceling facility comprising said echo-canceling facilities is disposed within a centralized control device, and feeds each~~feeding~~ selected speech recognizing facility comprising the speech recognizing facilities in parallel.

8. (Currently Amended) A multi-device, audio-video system that contains speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities for avoiding the recognizing of speech output from the system as user speech,

wherein in the presence of a plurality of devices, each separate device including plural and a functionally separate ones of said speech recognizing facility, wherein each facilities and echo canceling facility is facilities, the echo canceling facilities are arranged to combine its echo canceling ability using their forces through joint canceling means for canceling one or more mutually unique cancelable speech entities, and combining means for combining such cancelled entities for overall non-recognition by the system.

9. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein such combining means include a serial arrangement that arranges each selected echo-canceling facility~~facilities~~ in series.

10. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said series arrangement feeds~~feeding~~ the speech recognizing facility in a centralized manner.

11. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said series arrangement ~~feeds~~feeding various speech recognizing facilities in a distributed manner.

12. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein ~~said~~such combining means ~~includes that~~have said echo canceling facilities ~~are~~centralized in a control device, and are arranged for feeding various speech recognizing facilities in a distributed manner.

13. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein ~~said~~such combining means are arranged ~~to centralize~~for centralizing said echo canceling facilities and speech recognizing facilities in a joint control facility.

14. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein ~~said~~such combining means ~~are arranged for centralizing~~centralize each selected echo canceling ~~facility~~facilities and ~~feeds each~~feeding selected speech recognizing ~~facility~~facilities in parallel.

15. (Currently Amended) A speech enhanced device for use in a multi-device audio-video system having speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities for avoiding the recognizing of speech output from the device as user speech,
_____ comprising:
- _____ speech input/output means interposed between said speech recognizing and echo canceling facilities, for intercoupling another ~~speech-enhanced~~such device.

16. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in Claim 15, further comprising:
control means for selectively disabling one of
_____ ~~or more of said~~ speech-recognizing facilities, ~~said~~ echo canceling facilities and audio output facilities of the device.

17. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in Claim 15, further comprising:

microphone out means, and
~~_____ furthermore~~ control means for selectively controlling one or more of said
speech recognizing facilities, said echo-canceling facilities, and said
~~input/output microphone out~~ means.